

# Art and the Holocaust

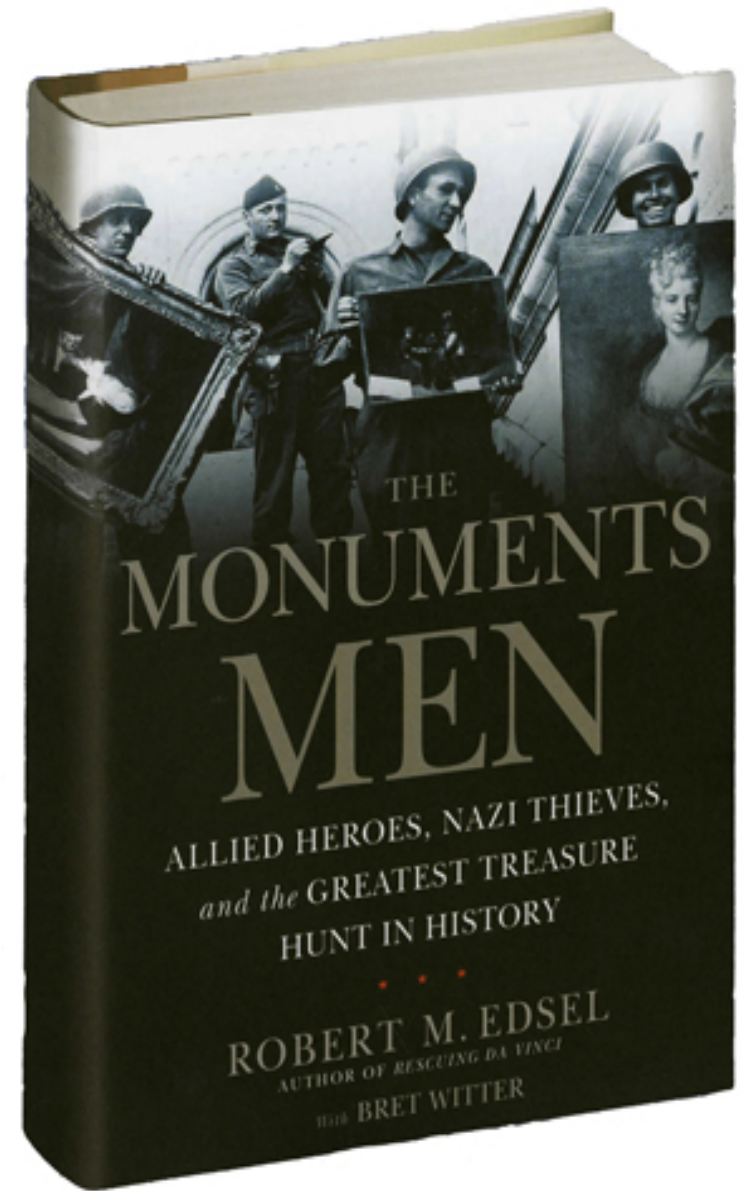


Artwork Looted, Relocated or Lost During WWII

Adolf Hitler was an art student who did not get an opportunity to follow his passion. Therefore, he made it a goal to develop his own museum. Throughout WWII he sought out artwork from the communities Germany invaded to include in his personal museum.

The [Monuments Men](#) were a division of Allied Soldiers who worked to protect Europe's Monuments and Masterpieces.

*One of the first attempts to acquire art began in 1939 with the blitzkrieg of Poland*



# Kummel Report 1940

Hitler, through Goebbels his propaganda minister, commissioned an inventory of EVERY work of art in the Western World that rightly belonged to Germany. This included artwork taken from Germany since 1950 and all works of art by German and Austrian artists. (*Monuments Men*)





*Lady With an Ermine* by Leonardo da Vinci





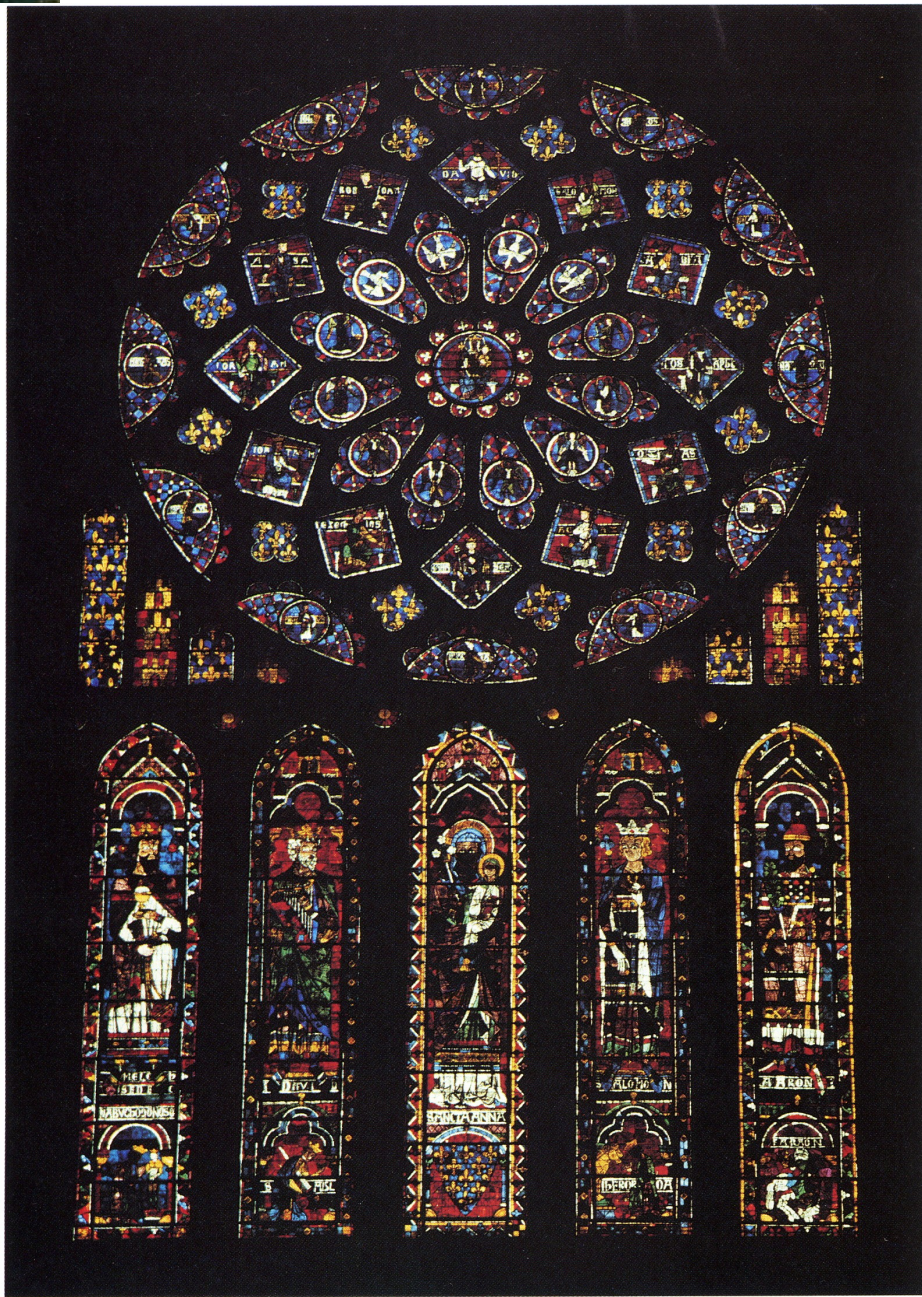
[Viet Stoss Altarpiece](#) ... Polish National Treasure



*Bruges Madonna* by  
Michelangelo taken in 1944







Chartres Cathedral in  
France 1944

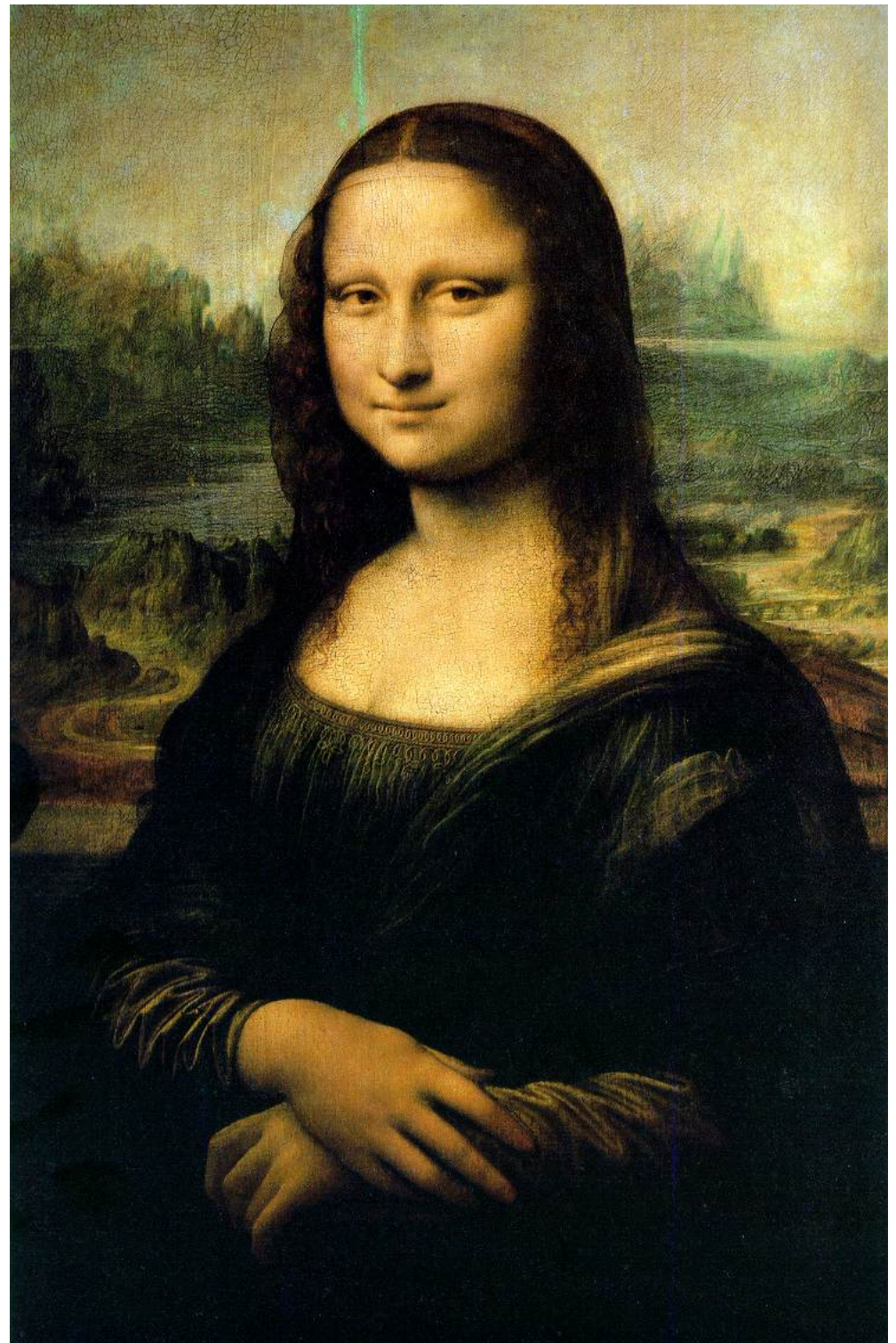




*The Night Watch* by Rembrandt  
rolled and hidden



*Mona Lisa* by  
Leonardo da Vinci  
(hidden)





*Raft of the Medusa* by Géricault (hidden)





Charlemagne's *Palace Church at Aachen*  
Birthplace for First German Reich  
First German city threatened by Allied troops

## *The Astronomer*

by Vermeer stolen  
from Rothschild's  
Paris mansion in  
1940s

*An interesting "logic" of seizure of collections was developed by the Germans. First, art belonging to Jewish collections could be seized and looted.*

*Thus, Vermeer's, The Astronomer, probably the most famous individual piece of looted art, moved from the Rothschild collection to Hitler's personal inventory ([Jewishpost.com](http://Jewishpost.com)).*







*Ghent Altarpiece (aka The Adoration of the Mystic Lamb)* by Jan van Eyck. Belgium's most beloved art treasure



Quedlinburg Italia  
Fragment  
stolen by American  
soldier